

SITUATION REPORT NO. 4
INCIDENT NO. 2004-035
DATE: September 3, 2004 Time 3:30 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

1. **NATURE OF DISASTER:** Wildland Fires – Drought conditions in areas of high fuel content have led to fires with extreme fire behavior ignited by various sources, including weather activity, agricultural and industrial operations, recreation and other human activity.
2. **DEATHS AND INJURIES:** No change from the previous reports.
3. **DAMAGES:** Fires reported to the State Operations Center (SOC) include:

Dickey County: On 9/3/04, the Edgeley Fire Department responded to a fire in Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land nine miles south of Edgeley along U.S. Highway 281. The fire covered two acres and has been extinguished. The source of ignition was lightning.

LaMoure County: On 9/3/04, the LaMoure County Fire Department responded to a grass fire one mile east and one mile south of Grand Rapids. The fire has been extinguished.

Slope County: On 9/3/04, N.D. Forest Service fire management officials reported the Deep Creek fire was 60 percent contained and 3,880-plus acres were damaged by the fire. Of that amount, 750-plus acres are U.S. Forest Service lands, 230-plus acres are State owned and 2,900 acres are privately owned. Rainfall lasting from midnight through the morning hours (measuring 0.10 to 0.25 inches) was a contributing factor to progress toward the fire's containment. To date, no structures have been damaged by the fire. Approximately one-half of the ponderosa pine forested area has been affected by the fire, with one-quarter of the affected area reported as a total loss. Mop-up operations have been initiated and are expected to continue over the Labor Day weekend.

The National Weather Service (NWS) forecasted scattered thunderstorms and showers for the area on 9/3/04, with northwest winds 15 to 20 mph and a chance of showers off and on through 9/4/04.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: Responders included public works departments, law enforcement agencies, communications centers, emergency management offices, fire and rescue, ambulance services, elected officials and administrative offices.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: No change from previous reports.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: On 9/3/04, officials for Slope County, the State of North Dakota and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) transferred authority to a USFS Type-II Fire Management Team at 8:00 a.m. on 9/3/04, which has assumed management activities of the Deep Creek Fire. Resources currently being utilized include 23 fire engines, 2 water tenders, and 130 personnel. Fire Departments currently activated include: Slope County, Amidon, Rhame, Bowman, Marmarth, Ludlow S.D., Scranton, Golvea, Billings County and New England. Resources released included two N.D. Forest Service engines, two USFS engines and one helicopter. Based on the progress of firefighting efforts, the Type II Team will transition to a Type III or Type IV fire management team by 9/5/04.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: None requested at this time.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.

9. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page at <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Guidelines for outdoor activity restrictions are contained on the internet in the North Dakota Rural Fire Danger Index Guide at <http://www.state.nd.us/dem/info/firedanger.html>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director